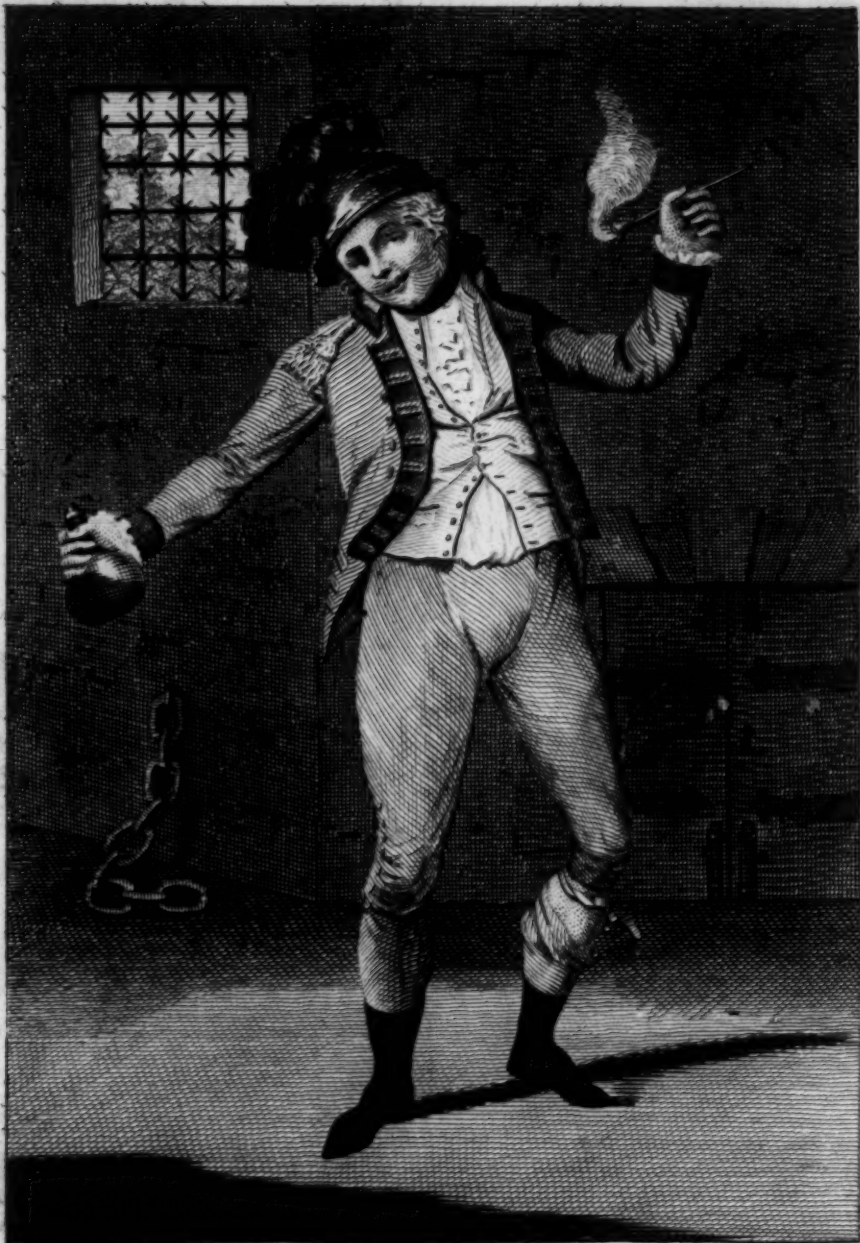




Mr. Edwin as Skirmish in the
Musical drama of the Defenter
Published as the Act directs by J. Roach, Russell Court July. 6. 1791.

EDWIN'S JESTS,
HUMOURS, FROLICKS AND BONMOTS;

CONTAINING

All the good things, he has said and done in his whole Life:

BEING THE RICHEST AND BEST

MENTAL FEAST,

EVER OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC;

Interpersed with many Occasional Traits of several Eminent Persons

IN

ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

Of all the men that ever trod the Stage,
Of human life, in any clime, or age;
None ever show'd such genuine wit as he,
And EDWIN's name, stands first for mirth and glee.

W. B.

L O N D O N;

Printed for J. ROACH, RUSSEL-COURT, near the
PIT-DOOR of DRURY-LANE PLAY-HOUSE;
and Sold by all the Booksellers
in GREAT-BRITAIN
and IRELAND.

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MENTAL TEST

(A TEST OF INTELLIGENCE)

Prepared by E. D. WINN & SONS

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W. E.



THE END

E D W I N' s

J E S T S,

HUMOURS, BONMOTS AND FROLICKS, &c.

THE productions of the present age, are so evidently calculated to introduce the malicious prejudices, or vain conceit of their Authors, that the judicious have a kind of dread of taking up a modern publication, almost confident that the *Title* of the *Book* is no more than a blind to captivate the imagination, and, that in the body of the *Work*, he is to find nothing but the sarcastic and envious restrictions of an ignorant fellow, on the most conspicuous characters.—A detail of the Author's own insignificant adventures, or the dull, spiritless, and insipid effusions of a stupid punster, who, under the sacred name of a distinguished person, imposes his creed—nonsense on an admiring public.

Of this the instances are so many, that we thought it our duty to make the strictest inquiry into the several situations that the late Mr. EDWIN found

himself in, that we might give him to our reader unadulterated, and such as he really was, without intruding any effervescence of our own brain as his.

We are well aware, that many persons will undertake the same task, nor shall we envy them their success. A man of eminence is, in some measure, the property of every writer; but we will humbly dare to offer it as our opinion that, in recording particulars of such a one, it is ungenerous to attribute to him what is not his.

The remarkable share which the late Mr. JOHN EDWIN held in the public esteem, both as a comic Actor, and an agreeable companion, render every thing that he has said or done, interesting to the curious; nor can we suppose that he can be indifferent to any. Extraordinary persons of his peculiar turn of mind, appear so seldom in the world, that we should be justly surprized if the task of transmitting his name to posterity were left to us alone.—But as we will be bold to say, that none could be more intimately acquainted with him than we have been, or had better opportunities of collecting materials for such an undertaking, so shall we, without apprehension of our competitors, offer his genuine and original JESTS, HUMOURS, BONMOTS, FROLICS and WITTICISMS, to a discerning Public, leaving to them, as the only judges, the discrimination between us and our rivals.

Were we inclined to plunder the public by voluminous impositions, we might cram our sheets with spurious matter, stolen from the neglected prints of the last and former centuries, which we might pretend were the issue of EDWIN; or pass them for our own, hoping thereby to gain reputation,

tation, and, what is more essential, many emoluments. But faithful information is our motive, and we will pursue it invariably.

Though Mr. EDWIN was justly impressed with a high sense of his own abilities as an Actor, and of his attractions as a convivialist, we have never heard him boast of his ancestry:—always confessing himself the son of a watch-maker, whose circumstances, though not equal to a country-house, enabled him to have him instructed in English Literature, Arithmetic and Music; the second of which he had so little taste for, that he never made a brilliant progress in it; nor did he regret the omission, as he has often declared, that, “Any man may do his business with a very few rules of that now complicated science.”—To the other two he was peculiarly attentive, and made a proportionable progress.

His pronunciation in his early years, was clear, distinct and forcible; in more advanced age, his emphasis was strong and judicious, and his voice was uncommonly harmonious, fluent and masterly;—he could dispose of his tongue in articulation as he pleased.

His knowledge of Music was just, and his execution enchanting;—and when his judgment was formed, he always took care to undertake nothing, to which he did not find himself perfectly adequate.

Although in his childhood his constitution did not promise a great length of days, yet his docility to his father's advice, who often admonished him of the necessity of learning for his future happiness, made him very attentive to the instructions of his teachers;—Classical knowledge, however, of the utility of which he was not made sensible, he neglected, and frequently lamented the omission when it was irremediable.

The particular occupation to which his parent destined him, is as unknown as it is immaterial;—certain it is, that at a very early period he conceived a strong predilection for Theatrical Performances, and took care at his return to London from a country school, to get himself introduced to a spouting club, somewhere in the city, where the praises bestowed on his vivacity in delivering his parts, and on his precision in entering into the spirit of the authors from whom they were borrowed, though given by persons who were very incompetent judges in such matters, tickled his vanity, and very probably decided his passion in favour of the Stage.

In the vespertine assemblies, it is not to be doubted but that the members gave a loose to all the fallies of their genius, and jests and witticisms flew about without control, and indeed, with very little judgment;—of those we have made it our business to collect the sum total, which we devoutly offer to the Public, not in an undigested mass, without connection or rule, but occasionally as they happened.

One of the members of the club, a grocer's apprentice, was a competitor of our EDWIN in the parts he pretended to spout, and shewed some acrimony on seeing himself outdone.—On this, our buskin aspirer being somewhat nettled, exclaimed,

“ Ay, ay, Jack, you may eat plums as fast as you will, but take my word for it, you never will pocket one, by your acting, nor I neither.”

EDWIN's finances being unequal to his taste for dress, the young grocer, who was desirous of excelling him in something, came in a quite new suit to the meeting, and plumed himself on his adventurous superiority.—His rival, who wished to mortify him if possible, cried out, “Why

"Why, Jack, you look as smart to night as a French barber on a Sunday evening; but, dear Jack, your cloaths cannot *act* for you, that is the great misfortune".

"No, said another who was EDWIN's friend, nor can they make him *act* better than he did before."

The young man, who found himself unlikely to succeed, wished to become friends with his rival; and consequently, at supper, to shew that he had no ill-will, asked EDWIN for part of a Welsh-Rabbit, which he had got dressed for his own use.

"No, Jack, (says the latter) you shall not have as much of it as would make a mouse a breakfast; and they, like you, are at best but nibblers."

Yet the grocer would not forsake his design of terminating the jealousy; for which reason, though not in want of money, he prayed EDWIN to lend him half a crown, to which he received for answer:

"Not as much as would buy a midge a mourning knee-buckle."

Verging now more nearly to manhood, and improved, in his own opinion at least, in theatric ability, his ambition prompted him to join a new society of the same nature in the vicinity of Temple-Bar; where some of the adepts in the mimic science thought proper to represent whole pieces, to which they admitted the amateurs, as spectators, at a moderate rate; and found means thus to save their own pockets, transferring Cheapside to Fetter-Lane.

The mature judgment of several visitants at this mock theatre, clearly saw the future eminence of EDWIN in his juvenile efforts; and told him

him the line in which he was most likely to succeed. For this reason, he applied himself diligently to the study of those parts which were best adapted to his genius.—*Simon* in the *Apprentice*, *Scrub* in the *Beaux Stratagem*, and others of that nature, became his favourites, and he was indefatigable in his application to the tones, gestures, modulations, and attitudes, that were most likely to do them justice; nor did he in the least remit his diligence in musical endeavours;—he strove to render himself master of the part of *Sir Harry Sycamore*, in the *Maid of the Mill*, and others in different operas, as they are called.

As yet, however, he seemed undetermined as to the distination of his talents, nor had his partiality to the stage risen as yet to irresistibility.

Mr. SHUTER was a constant attendant at this society, and conceived a very high opinion of our young competitor for applause, and was probably the chief cause of his determination in favour of the profession;—his partiality went so far as to give him several useful lessons, which contributed to our actorling's eminence, when the former was restored to his mother earth.

In their convivial moments, we have often had the pleasure of hearing some of those flashes of mirth, that set the table on a roar; nor could it be imagined, that in so large a company all could possess an equal degree of brilliancy. One who, though no duncer, was not remarkable for his promptitude, observing that, whilst EDWIN was using a certain utensil in the club-room, the liquid flowed along the floor, cried out with rapture.—“Poor JACK EDWIN's wit is running about the floor.”

“Would

"Would to God," replied the younker, that what flows from me could get into your head;—'tis very much wanted."

What,—said one of the company——Wit, replied he; he has enough of the other.

To such a seminary, it is not to be admired that even ladies should resort, and some persons of that sex, distinguished for wit, beauty, fortune, and merit, frequently honoured the little theatre with their presence; one of whom, enchanted with the humour of our hero, remarked to him, that she believed he could do any thing.

"Indeed ma'am, replied he, were you the moon, I would strive to get into it."

And why not now that I am but a woman, replied the lady. }

The stripling was not sufficiently brazened at that time to bear the rebuke; he gracefully blushed, promising himself that thenceforward he would, be more cautious in his witticisms with the ladies and wait until his beard was grown, before he would attack them in their *strong holds* of repartee.

In those social hours, which he has often acknowledged to have been the happiest he ever passed in his life, his only income was the salary he received as a clerk, in an office in the Temple; sufficient, however, to answer all his demands, as he had his board and lodging without any cost at his father's:—but Fortune, that scarcely ever fails of looking with a friendly eye on real merit, unless its possessor frustrates her favourable designs, smiled benignant on him at this period, and suggested to a gentleman to appoint him to a lucrative station which required little attendance, and in which he realized some hundreds in about twelve

twelve months, and would very probably have established him a solid man for life, had not the demon of the theatre once more attacked him in the form of a play, to be acted for the benefit of a poor family once reputable; in which he was solicited to bear a distinguished part.

EDWIN was possessed of a feeling soul; nor could the vortex of folly, which too generally in this age, renders the soul callous at an early period, extinguish the generous flame. He readily accepted the proposal and surpassed all his former exertions in so good a cause; the bursts of applause were so loud and universal, that the goddess Prudence, whose establishment in his breast was yet in its infancy, affrighted at the noise, forsook the clamorous dwelling, and her enemy vanity, took immediate and full possession of the mansion.

Whilst she was tearing down the improvements which her predecessors had begun to erect, her right of tenantry was rendered permanent by Mr. LEE, who engaged EDWIN to contribute with him and some others, whom he had aggregated for the purpose, to the amusement of the city of *Manchester* during the ensuing summer.

In a few days after, he was met, in boots, by an old acquaintance, who, surprized at the unusual appearance, asked him whither he was going.

"To Fish."

For what?

"For a thing devilish hard to be caught I must own—*popular applause*;—but I have the best bait the world."

What bait, dear Jack?

"A good disposition."

That

That I must own, replied his friend, (who was no other than NED SHUTER,) cannot fail, with your talents, to gain what you aim at; but, my dear EDWIN, let not the immoderate thirst of praise induce you to forsake the track for which nature seems to have destined you;—in the theatric maze there are numberless paths; you cannot travel in all;—the sprightly comic is your line to immortality, if you deviate from it, you will miss your vocation, and never attain to eminence;—stick to that, and I pronounce you inimitable.

There is something in advice which never goes down with the human race; we are surprized that another of our species should assume more judgment than ourselves; we are unwilling to grant him the superiority; and, in order to frustrate his predictions, we follow the dictates of our own passion; and by this self-sufficiency, frequently counteract the purposes our souls are bent on.

This obstinacy, or rather jealousy, was fully evinced in our Tyro, who, negligent of the prudent counsel of his friend, plunged into a line, in which, though he never could shine, yet, by the strength of his natural and studied abilities, he did not meet with disgrace;—he *would* perform the parts of tragic heroes and old comic personages, whilst yet in his teens; but when maturity had opened his eyes, he recollected the admonition of his friend, and fortunately, it was not too late for him to recover the ground he had lost.

His soul which was ennobled with the most celestial of human dignities, charity, could not bear the thought of carrying off so large a sum as he was then

then possessed of, whilst his father with two daughters, was struggling for subsistence; and therefore, the generous youth, reserving no more than was absolutely necessary to supply real wants, until his appointments in his new occupation should enable him to live independently, he associated himself with two of his future co-operators in the Drama, to perform the journey more agreeably; for EDWIN's temper was too well adapted to the charms of society to submit to solitude when possibly avoidable; nor was his soul so penurious as to seek his own advantage, at the hazard of escaping an opportunity of being serviceable to a fellow creature.

How god-like are the sentiments which this youth manifests;—sentiments that would do honour to the most elevated state of human nature!—how very singular in a person of his age and station of life, where the gift was natural, not acquired; where neither education, nor admonition, improved the glorious thought, but innate virtue, intuitive greatness of soul, poured forth the heavenly emanation, and in an earthly tenement, shewed the attributes of an angel of the highest order,—attributes better calculated to obliterate the frailties of humanity, than the compulsive behests of dying sinners, who, by bestowing for charitable uses what they can no longer retain, vainly flatter themselves that they can cheat a just Judge, as they before did a short-sighted world.

Has not the recording Angel, already dropped a tear over this man's sins; or can it be supposed that he, who in his juvenile days gave such evident marks of a divine disposition, which in all his vagaries he never abandoned, nor even suspended,

ed, will have his sins thrown in his face at the general accompting day, surely eternal happiness, must be his lot, or who can hope for it.

We could not refuse this little tribute to the qualities of our EDWIN's heart, and we flatter ourselves that our readers will forgive us the digression.

Though our actor was generous, he was not foolishly extravagant, his purse, though open to the distresses of his fellow-creatures, was somewhat slow in its effusions when nonsensical profusion solicited its assistance; hence he readily acquiesced in the scheme of travelling to *Manchester* in a returned chaise, with two of his co-mates in the undertaking; probably his purpose was to screen the lady from the inconveniences that might arise from the slender capacity of her purse, which, as he said to herself, on seeing it in the journey, "Strongly resembled a lady newly delivered of a son and heir."

It is well known to those who travel in England, that the hired horses used on long journies have but a small resemblance to those of the sun, and are liable to show symptoms of dissatisfaction, at too long a continuation in their compulsive peregrinations; especially if the task is in any degree greater than they are well accustomed to.

Hence the horses that drew EDWIN and his fellow-travellers, considering that revenge is one of the sweetest things in animal life, took so much umbrage at the unkindness of their driver, that deviating from the example of their predecessors, the studs of Phœbus, instead of forsaking their wonted path, they positively determined not to advance at all, nor could measures persuasive or

B

coercive

coercive induce them to break this resolution, until the pair-theatrical, (I believe I could have ventured to say pair-royal) descending from the vehicle, were compelled to walk some miles; but as the paces of the female heroine were not equal in extent to those of the males, and that her efforts to keep pace with them, only served to incommode herself, our youthful gallant bethought him of a stratagem, which enabled them to reach the next inn.

He recommended to the Phaeton to cover the eyes of the horses, whilst they were getting into the chaise, that imagining they bore no more than their usual burden, they might perform their task without further interruption.—The deceit passed current on the poor cattle, and a night's rest with good keeping so cheered them, that they demurred no more until the accomplishment of the journey.

How cursed slow these jades get on, said WALDRON.

"Like two thieves going to the gallows; my friend, replied EDWIN, for likethem they travel against their inclinations.

When Miss WESTRY found herself wearied, EDWIN told her,

"You advance, Miss, like a young lady going to to be married to a man old enough to be her grandfather."

A man will put up with any inconvenience to gain his end, says WALDRON.

"No man will put up with a rival in love, if he can discover him, says EDWIN, nor with close confinement if he can make his escape."

Nor

Nor with an empty purse, if he can put money into it, says WALDRON.

"Nor with a bad wife, if he can get rid of her," replies EDWIN.

Nor with no wife, if he can get any, rejoins Miss WESTRY.

"And who is the woman, retorts EDWIN, who will not prefer a bad husband before none?"

The fair one by discontinuing her share in the conversation for that time, seemed to give a tacit acknowledgement of the justness of the remark; and our generous youth was sorry for having suffered the vivacity of his temper to hurry him into a sarcasm which might give a moment's pain to one of his species; he endeavoured to atone for it, however, by an act of generosity not uncommon with him, for having remarked that the pockets of his companions contributed very little to the discomposure of their shape, he contrived to render the journey as comfortable as possible, by secretly paying a part of every bill on the road; by which means, their share of the expence became well proportioned to their pecuniary abilities.

EDWIN's generosity made a considerable impression on his finances; but at his age, a guinea a week, with the immemorial perquisite of half a benefit, was amply sufficient for necessary subsistence, especially as his wardrobe was not inconsiderable for a person in his line of life; he made himself as comfortable as possible, and might have made himself a small fund for future exigencies, did not the nature of his situation lead him into an extravagance, which his own inexperience, and the rapacity of his assistant, rendered almost destructive to his after welfare.

Too greedy of eminence in his occupation, he would omit nothing that could make him perfect in his parts; and for this purpose, he often solicited the servants of the Muses, who were to appear in the several scenes with him, to practise their several parts with him in a parlour that was common to them all; for several of Mr. LEE's company of comedians lodged in one house.

The *Beaux Stratagem* was to be acted, and EDWIN was to represent *Archer*;—he could prevail on none but her, who was to personate *Cherry*, to retire to the scenic parlour. In that part where the lady is examined in love's catechism, he asked her; where does it go out?—before she could make the reply, something tripped her behind, and in the fall, her cloaths were very much discomposed.

In the rapture which such an unexpected sight must occasion, he could not repress the following exclamation:

“By G— I see the spot!”

The lady, who was not unacquainted with advantageous attitudes, thought that she was then very likely to captivate so young a heart, and was therefore in no hurry to change it; nor was he so great a ninny, as not seize an opportunity which probably could not be recalled;—an omission in such cases is unpardonable; he had not even the prudence to make the door fast, and was absolutely caught in the fact. But as those who are accustomed to represent so many characters are not easily abashed, their joining in the mirth that was kept up at their expence, blunted the edge of ridicule, and thus prevented uneasiness.

Our younger found his heart more deeply engaged on this occasion than he was well aware of; and

and had the fair one been more moderate in her exactions, and more discreet in her gallantries, it is by no means impossible but she might have in the end been dignified with the title of Mrs. Edwin; but the enamorado had so many exigencies to supply for his dulcinea, that he for the first time felt the poignancy of distress, as she took care to prevent a possibility of his punctually paying for his diet and lodging, by draining him perfectly as soon as he received his appointments.

The persecutions of his creditors made him look eagerly forward to the time of the benefits, which now approached; and the disgusting importunities of the avaricious heroine had so far prejudiced him against her, that he very readily accepted a proposal made to him of an engagement at one of the Dublin theatres; his conviviality had procured him the patronage of almost all the youth of his own sex in *Manchester*, and the emoluments of his night produced a sum superior to his expectations.

A gleam of prudence had dissipated the cloud which love had cast over his senses, and foreseeing the imprudence of returning to a house, from which he could not expect to bring away a solitary guinea, he had taken previous care to elude the teazings of an indefatigable creditor and a rapacious mistress, by conveying away his most valuable effects, with which he eloped to the metropolis. As soon as the business of the night was completely ended, leaving the rest of his moveables to pay for his board, declaring on his arrival in London, that

“The young cock had proved too cunning, for the old foxes.”

In London he was not yet known as an actor, or wit, and consequently the circle of his acquaintance, was neither large nor brilliant; we shall therefore pass over the adieus he made to his friends, and bring him with a small sum of money, some trinkets, cloaths, &c. to Dublin, where he was received with diffidence by the Manager, who dreaded that at so early a period, his abilities would prove inadequate to the weekly salary he was engaged at.

In this apprehension, he struck EDWIN for a very unimportant part, and excited his resentment to such a degree, that, had he had money sufficient for the purpose, it is more than probable that he would have returned to England;—he even entertained some thought of entirely renouncing the stage; for his spirit was too high to bear so great a mortification. Thus had the haughty and premature decision of a man, otherwise eminent, nearly deprived the world of the inimitable talents of one of the first comic actors that perhaps ever appeared in any age.

As the summer's sun, dispels the little busy clouds that for a minute overshadow his brilliancy so did EDWIN's exquisite worth soon dissipate the prepossession of the manager, who even in the low character which he had forced upon him, clearly saw the superior genius of the youth, and now cast him for higher characters.

But still the young man's own injudicious taste misled him, and he would attempt parts which nature would not give her approbation to; *Justice Woodcock*, *Lord Trinket*, and other antiquated personages, kept his eminence yet in embryo; and although he performed those parts very well, they could

could not procure him that applause, which must have been liberally bestowed upon him, had he followed the track he was destined for.

Nor was this the only disappointment he experienced during his stay in Dublin. *Mossop*, whose intimacy with a certain lady of high title and independent fortune, was well known to the inhabitants of Dublin, spent in gambling with the *old mare*, (as the antiquated countess, in her own right, was ludicrously stiled by the upper gallery) those sums which he should have appropriated to the pacification of his creditors of innumerable denominations. Hence he was unable to satisfy the demands of those who acted under him; and several weeks often elapsed without a shilling being paid. This put the ladies and gentlemen of the Stage to the invention of stratagems to obtain a temporary redress of their grievances; but our *EDWIN*'s faculties seem to have been the most acute, and successful on the occasion; for he often walked with a bailiff, to a place of confinement on a night when he was of unavoidable necessity on the stage; and thus the Manager for fear of offending the public, was frequently compelled to borrow a sufficient sum, to extricate him from the pretended difficulty.

This contrivance was repeated so often with success, that it came at last to *Mossop*'s ears, who was exceedingly provoked at finding himself outwitted, and took an opportunity of reproaching *EDWIN* with it, with such acrimony, that the latter exclaimed,

"Hold your tongue, *Pluto*, I shall stay no longer in your *hell*."

This

This sarcasm provoked the Manager exceedingly; but as he had reason to believe that few of his performers were pleased with his conduct; apprehensive also, that EDWIN's persuasions would induce some of them to abandon him before the season was over, he thought it prudent to soothe the incensed youth, and regain his friendship by the *douceur* of paying the arrears then due to him. He requested however, that this instance of his partiality should be concealed, as otherwise, he would bring a swarm of wasps about him that would effectually torment him.

During this period, young EDWIN, under the masque of apparent listlessness, paid the deepest attention to the various abilities of the different actors in their several capacities; but he, who most attracted his notice, was Mr. RYDER, who possessed amazing comic talents. His observations were judicious and profound, nor had self-sufficiency so far blinded his understanding, as to make him spurn the advice of those, whose experience entitled them to more knowledge, and whose esteem for his amiable qualities, induced them to contribute to his future eminence.

Of this number, Mr. RYDER was the most zealous, and we must confess, the best qualified: he was himself an excellent comic actor, and there are few better judges of the particular merit and genius of others. He was the first that opened EDWIN's eyes to the real extent of his power, and to the peculiar line for which he seemed adapted. SHUTER's former opinion on that point had lain long dormant like a smothered fire, but now rose to his remembrance, and served to corroborate the sentiment of his new acquired friend.

Our

Our hero had, with a prudence rather uncommon at his age, but with that generosity which had always characterised him, and left him not till death, hoarded up the sum he had received from *Mossop* for his arrears, and found it now essentially serviceable to him in an engagement with Mr. RYDER, who resolved to lead a company of comedians to the city of Waterford, to enact during the summer, such plays as they would find most likely to hit the taste of its inhabitants.

An antipathy to solitude was a leading feature in the character of EDWIN, and he preferred the sufferance of some inconvenience before the performance of a long journey alone:—the presence of strangers, who would not probably relish his humour, he resolved to avoid.—A companion, who would laugh and bear a joke, was therefore the first object of his enquiry, and in the number, who were to acknowledge the empire of Mr. RYDER, he discovered one, whom he proposed as his mate in the undertaking. Here however, he encountered a difficulty, that at first sight startled him; this was, that the histrion's pocket, was so indifferently provided, as to subject him to the necessity of gaining the gaol on foot.

After a short hesitation, and a transient reflection, he imagined to himself that in such an excursion there might arise some adventures from which his hilarity would extract nourishment,—and as *he* could perform easy journeys, and give his fellow-traveller a lift occasionally, they jovially set off together.

The day of their departure was Sunday, and it is a day remarkably addicted to sports among the vulgar, whom necessity keeps seriously occupied on the other six days of the week. EDWIN, had
never

never been farther from the metropolis of Ireland than Ring's-End, the Phoenix Park, Drumcondra, &c. He hitherto had no opportunity of becoming acquainted with the real genius of the Irish, which is to be found genuine, only in the lower classes; affectation, foppery, fashion, and folly, disguise it too much in the higher ranks.

When EDWIN and his companion had got about eleven miles from the city, on the Munster road, they saw a great crowd at a solitary ale-house, and heard the distant sounds of music. EDWIN, whose soul was the essence of harmony, could not keep himself within the bounds of reason on the occasion; he felt a degree of extraordinary elasticity in his limbs, and he capered nimbly to the merry assembly; his companion, whose brain was of a more glutinous quality, could not keep pace with him, and he joined the sprightly peasants of both sexes, who were dancing merrily round a churn-staff, on which was placed conspicuous, a large flat sugared cake, which was to be the prize of him and her, who could bear the fatigue of hopping irregularly longest.

A stranger, of whatsoever sex or quality, is sure to be invited with rustic politeness and importunity, to partake of the diversion; nor had our itinerant sons of jollity been long in the circle before they received the modest curtesy of two ruddy-cheeked, comely faced virgins, by far the most beautiful of the train. Had Venus made her best salutation, learned from the dancing-master of the celestial abodes, and tacked to it her most alluring smile, it could not have produced a greater effect on the mind of EDWIN, than the natural inclination of the limbs, and the innocent look of the village maiden did. Though totally unpractised in their evolutions

lutions, he followed the motions of his beautiful partner with so quick an eye, that he was loudly and universally applauded.

Untutored politeness too, the easy lesson implanted by simple nature in the breasts of the Irish in general, declared him and his partner the victors, and the cake was unanimously awarded to them, which they bore in triumph into the ale-house. But our hero, unpractised in the ceremony on such an occasion, had recourse to the advice of his co-victor, who with artless sincerity, instructed him in all that was requisite for him to do.

The person who had travelled with EDWIN, being unblest with that degree of vivacity that procured his companion good treatment wherever he went, did not come up to the joyful meeting as soon as the latter, and consequently was not known to be of his company: his disposition was of the unsocial kind, unless he was intimate with the persons, and he was as ignorant of the manners of the natives of Ireland, and had not that kind of amenity that could gain him a welcome.

His name was GEORGEY, a musician, whom Mr. RYDER had employed to accompany the singing parts he should have occasion to represent in his excursion: but though he could make his fiddle speak heart-soothings sounds, his own soul was insensible of harmony, his manners were rough and unharmonious.—When the smiling damsel of the village, dropped her most graceful curtesy, as an invitation to him to partake of their merriment, and entitle himself to a share of the liquor that was to be drank on the occasion. To this, the Orpheus replied in a very harsh tone, that he would not dance.

A greater

A greater offence could not be offered to a person of her rank and sex in that country than such a refusal. She blushed and retired with apparent marks of mortification:—such an insult was not to be put up with; the young fellows entered into consultation, and it was resolved that the *cat-gut scraper* should undergo a ducking in the adjacent river;—the execution was suspended only until the cake was divided, when the fair partner of EDWIN's victory, was according custom, distributing her half of the cake to the men, whilst he was sharing his among the females; she offered a piece to GEORGY, which was instantly snatched from her by a young man, who declared that the surly rascal should have none. And he was immediately seized by half a dozen of them, who were proceeding, in spite of his cries and struggles, to bear him to the place of execution.

Though EDWIN could not help laughing at the awkward situation of GEORGY, he could not suppress the generous feelings of humanity, and therefore applied himself to his fair partner, fearing lest his own interference should involve him in the punishment of his fellow-traveller; the kind-hearted fair one, to oblige him, very easily undertook the task, and succeeded, with much difficulty, in rescuing the trembling culprit, from the threatened infliction.

Whether the buxom virgin made any impression on our youth's heart, he never would acknowledge; but he has confessed that he felt a very great reluctance in parting with her, and having spent in her company as much of the night as he could prevail with her to remain with him; GEORGY and he slept together on some straw, with clean
though

though coarse coverings, and on the following morning, renewed their pedestrian undertaking with much less alacrity than either had shewn on the preceding day; the former could not get the idea of a ducking which he had almost undergone, out of his head.

The other had something else in mind, that threw a weight upon his spirits; a profound silence rendered the journey yet more torpid and irksome; this was at length broken by GEORGY, who, no longer able to contain his resentment for the danger he had been exposed to, interrupted EDWIN's reverie by saying,

It was the mercury in your heels, that brought this disgrace upon me.

"By no means, GEORGY, it was the lead in your own head."

This sarcasm, together with the mortification he had endured, made GEORGY fulk so much and so long, that EDWIN, as he could not make him merry, resolved to add to his displeasure, and thus revenge his taciturnity: the day was very warm, and EDWIN had provided himself with some provisions, and a bottle of liquor; they retreated to a field near the road, at a small distance from which, was a narrow drain, which was almost hidden with weeds and grass. The arch Momus thought this a golden opportunity for putting his scheme in execution, and proposed to GEORGY, who was a much better runner than himself, to gain the opposite side of the plain, both blindfolded, for a supper and a bottle of stingo. GEORGY, who knew his own superiority, accepted the challenge; and willing to spare his consumptive purse as much as possible, tied up EDWIN's eyes, whilst he did the same by his antagonist: they bound off together

ther and GEORGY, who was unsuspicious of danger, used his utmost exertions until he rushed head long into the drain, the bottom of which was deeply incrusted with a thick clammy mud, which held the unfortunate musician so fast, that he could not extricate himself without the assistance of his companion, who refused him any aid, until he solemnly swore that he would keep neither anger, nor silence any longer.

The compact being sworn to, he dragged him out of the dilemma in a most filthy condition, which nearly made him relapse into rage; but he became pacified when EDWIN promised that he would pay the wager, which he acknowledged he justly lost. This acted so powerfully on the spirits of the musician, that he became a tolerable companion for the rest of the journey, which proved much more unfortunate to our itinerants, than they expected; for at night, when they came to an inn in a small market-town on the road, they asked if they could get supper and a bed? the answer was in the affirmative, and they were shewn into a room, where in a little time, they were served with a rich soup, and five or six different dishes were afterwards sent in to them; a variety to which they were little accustomed, and which excited some uneasiness in the breast of EDWIN, who apprehended that the bill would be proportioned to the fare!

But how agreeable was his surprize, when having supped plentifully, a message came from a gentleman who prayed permission to sit with them a while; they readily accepted the proposal, and a bottle of wine was called for, which being emptied another was ordered; EDWIN looked at GEORGY, who, in his turn, silently enjoyed the embarrassment

embarrassment of his companion; but all their alarms were nothing to that which occurred, when their guest, calling for a bill, which amounted to nine shillings, threw the paper on the table and wished the gentlemen a good night.

" If this is Irish civility, says EDWIN, I'll have no more of it."

It is better answered, GEORGY, than run a man hoodwinked into a ditch.

" You deserved it for your sulks; but what have I done to him?"

Given him an opportunity of laughing at you.

" It is rather hard that I should pay for his mirth;—but hang sorrow, a pound of it is not worth a farthing; lets be gay while we may, death, as the poet says, will have his day."

The bell was rung, a waiter came, and the money was paid; which being brought down stairs, the landlord returned to their chamber, and told them they must have mistaken; for that their bill had been paid by the gentleman.

" May the lovers of mirth ever meet with such friends," says EDWIN, in rapture.

And may the friends of the jovial, never want wealth to bestow, says GEORGY.

" And may the inhabitants of Ireland ever enjoy the three P—s."

What are they?

" Peace, Plenty, and Prosperity."

The gentleman to whom these toasts were repeated, felt his heart dilated, and he ordered a gallon of the best claret to be brought to them; which being unable to drink, they kept as a corps de reserve for the next day, which brought them to their journey's end.

One day's detail of the incidents of an actor's life, merely as such, serves for its whole course; but as a man and a bon vivant, he is subject to adventures as well as any other individual in the world. Until EDWIN became known as a good performer, he lived as follows; it is a transcript from his own words:

"Awoke at nine, and recollected that I was to act a difficult part that night.

Knew I was far from being perfect.

Flounced in bed for some minutes.

Discomposed my night-cap, by scratching my head without cause.

Leaped out of bed, and stalked about the room in my shirt.

Felt myself devilishly afraid of being hissed.

Resolved to make myself perfect in my part.

Huddled on my cloaths.

Read over my part three times.

Forgot to call for my breakfast.

Studied attitudes for near an hour.

Was called upon to go to rehearsal.

Found myself exceedingly hungry.

Went home, and dined.

Could not bear to be alone.

Went to the public house.

Adjourned to the theatre.

Dressed and flirted with the ladies.

Was clapped, and felt excessive joy.

Tired after my exertions.

Went to the public-house with three brother actors.

Spent nine-pence.

At one in the morning went home to bed.

Fell asleep about two.

The

The excellence of his performance, and the opportunities which some of the townsfolk had at the public house, of seeing and hearing his drolleries, made him soon become a favourite.—Among others who solicited the pleasure of his company, was a taylor of some eminence in the city of Waterford, who affected to be a wit, and was not, like many others who pretend to that quality, ambitious of shining alone; if he had the luck of expressing himself smartly at another's expence, he with great cheerfulness bore a repartee, however severe, nor would wrinkle his brow, when he found himself worsted in the conflict,

Notwithstanding this amiable disposition, he had not the good fortune of securing the affection of his wife, between whom and him there was too great a disparity of years, he being on the borders of fifty, and she not yet nineteen; she was foolish enough to imagine, that in the state of wedlock something more than words is requisite to constitute mutual happiness, and this something she could not find with her husband: he, on the contrary, imagined that wit was the *summum bonum* of human life, and thought the woman unreasonable, who would place felicity in any thing else than wit and good humour, both which he certainly possessed no small share of.

Whether it was that discretion over-ruled inclination, or that as yet, she had not seen the man whose personal appearance was suited to her taste, she had either had no *amour* hitherto, or she had so closely concealed it, as that the prying eye of curiosity had not been able to penetrate it, nor could the tongue of slander bespatter her unsullied fame.

In the large folio of predestination, is marked every transaction of the seemingly unimportant beggar, as of the self-important monarch; in it are set down the incidents of the lives of the blustering foldier, the needy author, the quibbling lawyer, the snivling citizen, the canting enthusiast, the fawning courtier, and the mimic comedian; nor are the vicissitudes of the female mind forgotten. Here are their mazes traced, their uncertainties unravelled, their fluctuating desires pursued through their instabilities, and the moment is here determinately fixed, in which a certain object shall engage them, and confirm their appetite;—happy for them, if this object is dignified with worth.

About this time, our youth approaching towards his eighteenth year, and finding the inconvenience of a boyish appearance in his situation, thought it prudent to apply to a barber who attended the company, to contribute to place the mask of manhood on his visage; the understrapper of Esculapius could not keep the muscles of his mouth in their usual form, this the representative of Momus observing, asked him the cause of it;

I might as well shave a lady, Sir.

“ You might not, Sir,—for you would only spoil her’s, and will mend mine.”

Sir, a crop cannot grow where there is no feed.

“ I can feel what you cannot see; I know my face was made to be that of a man; so work on Mr. Barber.”

The barber obeyed and the effect was soon visible;—the lady, who seems to have been a good judge of human merchandize (we mean the tailor’s

lor's wife) from frequently seeing EDWIN, had conceived a very good opinion of his abilities in any undertaking; but as her reputation was yet dear to her, she resolved to secure it as much as possible consistently with the gratification of a passion, which was not risen to a pitch of lunacy sufficient to brave the esteem of the public: she must have some proofs of the discretion of the object of her choice, lest his vanity should publish her frailty.

She therefore questioned him very minutely concerning the conduct of all the actors and actresses then in Waterford; he thought it would be ungenerous to speak ill of those of his profession, and pleaded ignorance; she then enquired minutely into his own amours; he would acknowledge nothing; she entrusted him with some seeming secrets, and got others to pump him; he was invulnerable and she was captivated.

On the evening previous to her surrender, he was in company with the husband, who spoke somewhat disrespectfully of his profession, saying, that actors in general scarcely deserve the name of men.

"An actor," replied EDWIN, "is many men in the semblance of one, whereas a taylor—"

Well, come, what is a taylor? out with it?

"In the semblance of a man, is but the ninth part of one."

His good humoured host was not at all displeased at the repartee, and the lady could not rest until she had made experiment of the truth of the remark, and by her attachment to our hero during his stay there, confirmed it.

There is nothing more singular, few things more certain, than that the women, however distinguished

distinguished for wealth, merit, talents, or love of liberty, in every other sense of the word, still pant for that ceremony by which their own names are to be lost to them for ever, and that of a man, whom they have perhaps never seen, and who is totally an alien from their family, is to be substituted in its room: from the highest rank of life to the lowest, this unaccountable mania prevails, and even in theatric commonwealth, where the shackles of law and religion seem most to be neglected, it prevails with as much vigour, as in any other part of the community.

That chastity was by no means the characteristic of Miss Hawke, is perfectly known in all the towns and cities, where the leaders of the sock and buskin have occasioned her appearance; yet did she seem tired of her maiden name; of the state of virginity she could not, as she had before rid herself of the troublesome burden:—she had wasted a considerable share of the artillery of love on different persons, but never secure to herself a husband:—she now casts a *Hawk's* eye on our stage hero, and was in a fair way of trussing him up in the talons of matrimony; in fact she had made so deep an impression on him that his wit, which had been hitherto in a state of torpor from the want of a proper incentive, kindled at the fire of her bright eyes, and produced the following sonnet.

Ah, go ye little lambs and nibble flowers,
 Or quench your thirst at yonder purling stream,
 For Cupid, cruel Cupid chills my powers,
 And my fond wishes cheat me like a dream.

Ye

Ye pretty birds that warble on the spray,
 The goldfinch, lark, the linnet and the dove,
 Tho' my heart achs, you may all be gay,
 For you have never known the *pangs* of love.

Or if you have, no sad, no savage vows,
 Have kept your chirping mistresses from ye,
 You ask no other houses than the boughs
 And bill and coo, and fly from tree to tree,

Notwithstanding his serious attachment to Miss Hawke, in the view of wedlock, young as he was, he was not such a ninny, as to give up the very lucrative connexion he had with the taylor's wife; to whom he also gave the sonnet as a tribute of love on the following occasion.

She had appointed a meeting, to which, though EDWIN was punctual, he was forced to return without the expected gratification. The sonnet was received with transport, and the lady proposing to herself more satisfaction with him than her husband could give, offered to rob the latter, and elope with the former.

Although EDWIN could trespass on his neighbour through the medium of his wife's person, with little scruple, yet he scorned to injure his purse; but as an open denial would probably prove hurtful to him, he flattered the fair one with the hope, that when the season was ended, he would comply.

In the mean while, he also discovered the incontinence of his beloved Miss Hawke, and upbraided her with it in terms so acrimonious, that the experienced Cyprian saw her error with great remorse; she however hoped, that she should be able, by those arts which Nature has liberally bestowed on her sex, to repair the broken chain:
 but

but in the breast of youth, the idea of cuckoldom is so hideous, that every endeavour was attended with disappointment, and followed with some theatric reproach, uttered with all the dignity of offended manhood.

"Give me a rotten pear, would he cry, emphatically; I will chew it, I will swallow it;—mix up the most nauseous drugs, I will take them, and never wince nor make a wry face;—but to marry a wanton!—be ready, oh you gods! with all your thunderbolts, and dash me to pieces."

The approach of the season for opening the Dublin theatres compelled those who were engaged to them for the winter, to repair to the capital; and EDWIN, who dreaded the fate of all those who encumber themselves with an amorous woman, resolved to take a *French leave* of the town; and as the benefits had precluded every danger of poverty, the comedians formed themselves into groups, as partiality led them.—*Remington* and I had the honour of being selected to contribute to our hero's amusement during the journey, which, as he had plenty of cash, and no lack of time, we agreed to perform on foot, as long as it proved convenient.

Hurroo! long life to your honours! Arrah—*Katty*, by *St. Patrick*, here's company coming, says the landlord of a small inn on the road, as we drew near his house without any intention of stopping; make haste a *Chushla*, and get the parlour ready for them, for I see by their faces that they are good gentlemen. Such seducing language was too powerful for our devotee to sensibility.

"*Billy*, do you mind the honest fellow calls us gentlemen, says EDWIN; we cannot avoid spending something with him."

Paugh,

Paugh, cried I,—it will delay us too long.

“ When a man has time in his pocket, he has nothing to fear; don't you see, you dog? replied he, pulling out a silver watch he had purchased in Waterford. We entered all three; and shaking our feet at the door, ordered Care, to wait for us until our return.”

A piper, who, had he as delicate an ear as he had a nimble finger, would charm Cerberus, and force the queen of Hell herself to follow him, played up a sprightly tune which *malgre la fatigue du voyage*, set us all a jigging. Some glasses of contraband brandy confirmed our vivacity; and were all the monarchs in Europe, with all the despots of the East, to curse, stamp, and rave for a favourite opera, they could not have dragged us from the good-natured landlord of the little inn, until what with the Nantes, what with the dance, we became as drunk as Silenus, and were put to bed senseless in a snug room, where we repaired the ravages of excess; and to the great honour of the nation, found every thing safe and sound in the morning, except our heads, which complained of our intemperance.

A hair of the same dog, is a proverbial remedy for such diseases, and on our emerging from the scene of our repose, we entered what was called the parlour, whither came almost immediately a young gentleman of the vicinity, who having got possession of a large fortune a few months before, and being of a very slender wit, saw himself rather neglected by those of his own rank: besides this, he had another stimulative to avoid their company, which was that kind of ambition which induced Cæsar to declare, that he would rather be the first in a small village than the second in Rome. From this motive, our man of fortune preferred the interested approbation of a

number

at

bull

by
own
they

number of peasants, who praised his wit and generosity, and plied him with *your honour* at every second or third word, and swore he deserved to be a Lord:—for this incense he always paid the reckoning.

On his entrance, he called for a dram, saying, it was very cold.

Another entered immediately, having walked a good many miles, and called for a dram; crying, upon my word, this morning is exceedingly warm.

EDWIN could not restrain himself, but exclaimed,—“Here, landlord, bring me a dram, for I like it; cannot people follow their inclinations without telling such damnable lies to amuse them?”

The young spendthrift was so charmed with this folly, that he would have EDWIN home with him to spend the day at his house; but the generous boy declared he would not quit his companions: we were accordingly conducted all three to the mansion, where the gentleman, whose name was *Foster*, treated us with the utmost hospitality, and sent us to bed tipsy.

In the morning, EDWIN went to Mr. *Foster's* room, and seeing the windows open and the curtains tied up, asked the reason.

Only that I may see day light when I am asleep, replied the host.

Our fellow traveller could not but smile at the genuine bull, and we all assembled at breakfast: the conversation was sprightly, and EDWIN complimented the gentleman's sister, who was very amiable, and did not want wit. Our comic hero, who had a sufficiency of ambition and assurance, told the lady,

“I wish ma'am, you were bound with a good bond to spend your days with me.”

Though

Though in such a bond, retorted the lady, there would be no judgment, I would not care much about passing my days with you, provided I was not bound to sacrifice my nights to you.

excellent

This broad hint proved to EDWIN, that in the mode of addressing women, there is a certain method to be observed, as the same woman will sometimes turn up her nose, at what would have tickled her to the soul at other times: how much then must be the difference between different women.

The conversation now turned upon a variety of subjects, among which, the length of life in the various animals with which the world is peopled; on which the hospitable entertainer remarked, that fishes were certainly the most extraordinary, as they lived longest after they were dead: this seeming bull made all the company laugh, but EDWIN was too generous not to take away the ridiculous from his host's expression, and explained it, that he meant their showing appearances of life longest.

good Bull

Having taken leave, we travelled on very roundly until dinner time, when we arrived at a little public-house on the road, where we got a piece of hung beef and white cabbage, of which having ate very heartily, we were prevented from proceeding by an envious cloud, that darkened the whole horizon; the rain came tumbling as through a sieve, nor would the most savage have refused us hospitality on such an occasion.

We called for cards and amused ourselves, until bed-time, when in passing to our chamber, we saw two men asleep, one of whom was so tall that his feet appeared some inches out of the bed:—Our humorous comedian could not forego so fair an opportunity of diverting himself, and

*good story
it is now
put into rhyme*

D

proposed

proposed to us to join in the design. He took a spur that lay upon the floor, and fastened it to the tall man's heel; he sent away the light, and pinching the traveller's toe, he drew up his leg hastily, and gored his bedfellow so severely, that he cried out,

Hallo Paddy! arrah, what the devil's the matter with you! can't you be after cutting the nails of your feet in be d—n'd to you.

The Irishman who was not yet awake, returned to his former position, but was again attacked by EDWIN as before; the other who was now more severely hurt than at first, jumped up and began to belabour his companion so seriously, that starting suddenly from his sleep, he cried out, what's the matter? and at the same instant ran the spur into his own leg. Imagining that his companion was playing some trick upon him, they both fell to fighting so eagerly, that all the guests in the house filled the chamber, and began to enquire the cause of the bustle; which being discovered, the Irishman exclaimed, O ye curse on that rogue, of a boy; now, when he pulled off my boots, by my shoul he left one of my spurs on.

another Bull The morning being come, we pursued our journey, and about noon met a boy mounted on a cow; EDWIN asked him, where he was got to now? only a horse back upon a cow, Sir, replied the boy; that's a bull, says EDWIN; not it indeed, Sir, rejoins the younker, for I saw the teats before I got upon her.

At last we entered Eblano, and presented ourselves before Mr. *Maffop*, who received us politely enough, and on the very next night the theatre opened, with an occasional address to the audience, and

and the comedy of *a trip to the Jubilee*, in which Miss Catley was to perform the part of Sir Harry Wildair. EDWIN was behind the scenes when that lady returned from the stage with loud bursts of applause; upon my honour, I believe one half of the audience believe me really to be a man.

"It may be madam, says EDWIN, but the other half are convinced you are *a woman, and from* *good rub* *experience too.*"

The Carteret's head, in Castle-street, which was frequently honoured with the presence of our hero, as well as with that of several officers, then in garrison in Dublin, was the means of introducing him into good company, and members of parliament of the first talents and fortune, were rejoiced when the representative of Momus favoured them with his company; to one of those who for a long while, and, that in his younger days had been the bulwark of opposition, took occasion one night of being sarcastically witty on the comedian; to whom he said, that he was certain he never would do good;—to this the other replied very archly,

"I really believe, Sir that the best of you is past, and that God himself will not now trouble himself with you;—but I am yet young, and may mend."

The repartee touched the gentleman so deeply, that he became quite angry, and threatened to cane the actor, but he with his usual readiness thought of a *bull*, which saved his *bacon*.

"Ay, do kill me if you will, and then I shall have the pleasure of seeing you hanged"

Another gentleman infamous for his debauches, asked EDWIN in a *tete-a-tete*, if he knew where a good character was to be purchased?

" Why, Sir?

I would give any money for one.

" 'Twould be all thrown away, Sir."

For what reason, EDWIN?

" Because you would soon throw it away again.

A gentleman who was very passionate, and would rant for mere trifles, told EDWIN he would send him to the devil in a minute.

" You would not wish to go there yourself, these twenty years."

D—me you rascal, I'll kick you there directly.

" Egad, if you do, I'll tell your father what a life you lead.

An officer, singing a song, who was perfect in neither the words nor air, requested EDWIN to help him out.

" Surely Sir, you are out enough already, says the player."

One whose name was *Brown*, toasted a certain lady so often in company where EDWIN was, the latter replied.

prime " You have toasted her so long, Sir, that it is surprizing she is not yet become Brown;"

The landlord of the Carteret, whose wife was rather unpolite, had offended one of his best guests, when EDWIN was present, the man swore that were it not for the strangers, he would kick her out of doors.

" Oh, pray don't make strangers of us, said the wit."

A gentleman complaining that his watch had been stolen at night, EDWIN expressed the following impromptu on the occasion:

" He who a watch would carry, this must do,
Pocket his watch, and watch his pocket too."

Walking

Walking into the country one day, he met with a pert young fellow, who seemed inclined to banter him, for EDWIN was well dressed:— I can prove that you will go to heaven, said the young fellow.

“ I fear you are wrong, Sir, replied EDWIN; by what argument ?”

Because he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

“ If that is to be then, you who deserve it better, will be hanged.”

He was met another day by one on horseback, who told him he was an afs.

“ And your saddle is a mule.”

How will you make that out?

“ Because it is between a horse and an afs.”

Being asked what he thought of Ireland? he gave the following answer.

“ It is the most singular place on the whole earth, for there you can have plenty of liquor without drawing the *Cork*.”

“ You are called to church there as regularly and in the same manner as in England, though they keep the Bell fast in such a manner, as that five hundred men cannot wring it.”

“ There is not a more loyal people on earth, though they are every day subject to a-Bandon,”

“ In a certain part of it, you will meet with a Sli-go, yet the people are generally honest and sincere.”

“ There is but one Dubl-in in the whole island, notwithstanding which, that one contains more people than any city in it.”

“ You would suspect the Irish to be very cruel, for every day a great number of them go to Kill-Kenny, that never did harm to any body,

and is useful to hundreds, supplying them with meat, drink, washing, and lodging at a very easy rate: still, though, run through thousands of times, and in different parts, you can see no sign of death, or dissolution, but an appearance of more firmness and grandeur than ever."

"Not satisfied with this seeming barbarity, many of them hasten in all weathers, without the least sign of anger, or displeasure to Kill-More, and tread upon the passive bosom in such a manner, that you could not imagine it possible for any being to escape with life, yet is there not the least sign of harm done."

"The people go so frequently (in the Cockney pronunciation) to *Wex-Ford*, that you would think them very provoking, and still there is not a better tempered nation under the sun."

"Though they go to Kill-Dare every day, yet Mr. *Dare* is as hearty as ever he was, and seems very fond of them."

"There is such a *Long-ford* in this kingdom, that a stout horse can scarcely go from one end of it to the other in a Summer's day, and yet the river is not twenty yards broad."

"Though they have their *Wick-low* to a surprising degree, their candle is commonly as sizeable as any in England, and gives as good light."

The poorest man in the kingdom may lie in *Down* every night, at no expence, and get money and victuals for nothing;—that is what many rich men in England cannot do.

Though they go to *Dun-more*, ~~there~~ yet, they do not ask for the money due to them half so often as they do in England.

There is a town there that holds, at least ten Fairs every day in the year, and they are almost all

all of them brisk and lively, and of both sexes.

Some of the *Lambs* are so big there, that they very far surpass even the Rams and Sheep in size; but then no wool *grows* upon their backs, though they are never without *some*.

In some parts of Ireland, a Herring will walk the streets, and talk familiarly with you, but if you attempt to boil or fry *that* Herring, you will meet with a very stout resistance, and stand a good chance of bringing home a broken head; but there are not many of that kind.

Some Reeds in Ireland are of so singular a nature, that they will tell you a good story, and do many other good things without being laid a hand on, but whilst you breathe into them they are quite silent.

The whole company could not help laughing at the drollery of his remarks; and he was now considered as an eminent wit, and an excellent comedian; but his too great propensity to company keeping, and his high spirit, that would not suffer him to receive a pecuniary obligation, whilst his own pocket could afford a sum sufficient to pay his reckoning, reduced him often to very great straits.

Add to this that his payments from Mr. *Mossop* were so irregular and so inadequate to his expences, that he became at last disgusted, and resolved to leave a country, where, however caressed and admired, he saw an impossibility of attaining to that degree of eminence, to which he now more ardently aspired.

Mr. *Waldegrave*, a performer of Smock-Ally theatre, felt the same inconveniencies as **EDWIN** did, and wished to be rid of them.

When

When two persons are in the same predicament, they soon unite their heads, and with more ardour proceed to the remedy; between those two it was therefore resolved, to extract from the Manager as much as they could, and once more try their fortune in England.

EDWIN was too well principled to run away from his creditors, and having received as much of his stipend as was possible, and paid his debts, *Waldegrave* and he, without communicating their design to any body, went in a packet boat that was to sail to Parkgate, where they arrived without any accident of note.

In the whole course of EDWIN's life, he had never felt so great a deficiency of money as at this period; for he could not get much above half what was due to him by the Dublin Manager; his honesty would not suffer him to leave that city in debt, and his company-keeping had exhausted all his other resources, as we have mentioned above.—*Waldegrave* was more fortunate, and promised to help him out on the emergency.

Our comedian's stomach had such an antipathy to sea-water, that even the looking at it, generally gave him a convulsion; the commotion in his intestines in the last voyage, had been so severe, that even after he landed, he still thought the house he sat in was rolling round, and frequently caught hold of something near him when this paroxysm rose to a certain degree,

Whilst *Waldegrave* and he were at dinner upon an excellent soup and some Welch mutton, EDWIN was suddenly seized with the giddiness, and thought he was on the point of being overturned; he laid hold of the table, which *Waldegrave* also gripped fast, to prevent it from over-
 setting

ting. Our poor friend's nerves were so completely unstrung by his illness, that he suddenly let go, and the other having balanced his chair to make the better resistance, fell prostrate on the floor, whilst the table with all its burden fell upon him. EDWIN came to the ground on the other side; but the fright of the fall having in some measure braced the relaxed fibres about his heart, it at the same time produced a contrary effect on those of his mouth, which from being before braced to a pinching squeeze, expressive of anguish, now became so perfectly relaxed, that they spread into an extensive laugh, to which the lungs, always in unison with the lips, sent as an auxiliary, a long and loud, Ha! ha! ha! ha! whilst *Waldegrave's* eyes, sparkling with indignation, his tongue ever ready to give vent to the ebullitions of turbulence uttered the most hearty curses and execrations.

The greater opposition there is between two persons or things, the more probability there is of their coming to an agreement; for each giving up a little of its excess, they come to gradually to a proper temperature; but if they come to too close a contact, the heaviest will certainly overpower the lighter, and so would it have fared with our votary of mirth, had he not prudently eluded the rage of his colleague, which was now risen to an intemperate degree.

Having absented himself for some time, his companion's anger subsided, he condescended to send for EDWIN, who apologized for the accident as well as he could; but was so much addicted to laughing, that whenever the idea of what had happened occurred to his memory, he could scarcely restrain the muscles of his face.

I am like the flint, said *Waldegrave*, when struck I send forth a hasty spark.

"More like the cinder surely, replied EDWIN, that when set on fire keep the heat a long while."

Cordiality seemed now to have resumed her empire, and they drowned every idea of animosity and resentment in a copious libation: EDWIN's stomach had not yet recovered its tones; inasmuch, that the disturbance created by the liquor, co-operating with that which the sea had already occasioned, he could not in his state of intoxication, recollect the peculiar place or situation he was then in.

His rebellious intestines dissatisfied, at a burden which they thought they ought not to be loaded with, united their forces against the imperious tyrant, and forced him from his throne, without minding to whom the forcible expulsion might prove prejudicial:—at this instant *Waldegrave* lay snoring on his back, with his mouth wide open, and as the cascade rushed with considerable violence through the narrow channel of EDWIN's throat, it rose some distance in an oblique direction, and fell into the sleeper's mouth, who was almost suffocated by the tide;—ignorant of the side from which the invasion came, he turned himself suddenly towards EDWIN, who at that instant made a second discharge of the moist artillery, more fully in the face of the astonished hisstrion.

They were both much overcome by the night's excess, to be sensible of their situation, and they wallowed in the filth until morning, when each laid the fault upon the other, nor could either absolutely deny the charge.

Nothing

Nothing less than bathing could render them fit to appear;—*Waldegrave* went to the sea, which was near, and EDWIN got some fresh water in his chamber, when having twice emptied the drudging box to clear their hair, they proceeded to Chester; from whence they proposed a march to Scotland, in hopes of an engagement.

It is the common error of the sons of man to mistake their talents, and to think themselves very clever at those things in which, when too late, they find themselves bunglers: this was the case with our hero, who erroneously imagined himself an adept at the destructive science of card-playing;—I call it destructive, because the winners very seldom turn their gains to any real advantage, but verify the old adage, which says, that,

“What is gained under the Devil’s belly, is spent over his back.”

The losers surely have then nothing to boast of.

EDWIN challenged *Waldegrave* to play; they went to work; victory decided in favour of the latter. All the ready money being gone, our now poor carmudgeon duped by another adage, “He that has patience and money enough, will win at last,” flaked the several spare articles of dress that now remained with him, which were but few, until all, except what he wore, became the property of his antagonist, who generously lent him money until they could procure an engagement; the Scotch expedition being laid aside, in consequence of EDWIN’s still feeling the effects of his voyage, and the excess he had been guilty of at Parkgate.

Disappointed

Disappointed of any occupation in two or three places, to which he had applied, he received a welcome invitation from Mr. *Heaton*, who was at that time, raising contributions on the inhabitants of Bewdley, who also sent him a small sum of money, which enabled him to repay the ungrateful debt, which he had unwillingly contracted with *Waldegrave*, from whom he parted with evident signs of dissatisfaction for his indecent reproaches of the trifling service he had done him, giving him this reprimand:

“ Had I been unwilling when able to pay you, your reproaches would be just: but as it is, I see the meanness of your heart, and despise you! poor, peevish, pitiful tyrant, unused to have it in your power to oblige, the unaccustomed feeling is too powerful for your weak understanding; it is always so with those whose dreg-like souls are strangers to generosity.

His arrival at Bewdley proved very seasonable to the Manager, who began to feel his receipts diminish so considerably, as to be scarcely adequate to his expences. He knew EDWIN's abilities better than himself, and by a judicious cast of parts, brought back those who had forsaken his theatre.

Yet did he find himself so much incommoded by his indisposition, that he found it necessary to apply to an apothecary of the town, who gave him something which was very salubrious. To complete the cure, he gave EDWIN a large dose, which he was to take very early in the morning; but the comedian after a good night's rest, finding himself perfectly well, flung it into the court-yard.

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The apothecary returning, and finding him heartily engaged with some slices of bread and butter, not of the step-mother size, enquired if he had followed his prescription.

"God forbid Sir, replies EDWIN."

What is the reason?

"I should have been dead by this, if I had."

The apothecary was somewhat nettled, thinking the observation meant as a sneer upon his skill and profession, and truly asked his patient

Why do you think so, Sir?

"Because I find it out at the window."

The disciple of Galen, reconciled by this declaration, which proved that there was no offence intended to himself or his profession, laughed heartily at the witticism, shook the young man by the hand, and was a good friend to him whilst he remained at Bewdley.

Still the loss he had sustained with *Waldegrave* pressed upon his mind, and as he could not persuade himself that he had lost for want of skill, he engaged an inhabitant of Bewdley, at the same game and with the same success; upon which an acquaintance asked him,

Why do you play the fool, EDWIN?

"For ~~they~~ the same reason that you do,"

What reason is that?

"Want."

But I do not want.

"Yes, you want wit, and I want money."

This fully pleased his antagonist so much, who was not mercenary, that he played ill on purpose, to let him win back his own.

But the most singular and amusing of all his adventures, was that which he had with a country girl, who acted as servant maid to two antiquated virgins that lived near his lodging, by sliding

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down

down from his chamber window. EDWIN could easily scramble over a low wall that separated the back grounds of both houses, and by the vigilance of his enamorado, he gained admittance into the kitchen, where *she* took care that *he* should not spend all his time in idleness.

Between a man of EDWIN's lively and improved genius, and a girl who had no other advantage than what simple nature bestowed, conversation must sometimes languish, and become insipid; such moments our hero would spend in something that was suited to his vivacity.

To him and his co-adjutor in the celebration of the mysteries of love, it appeared incomprehensible that a man or woman should, through choice, live in a state of celibacy; and such as did, they looked upon as enemies to society, and therefore, deserving of persecution; having fully convinced themselves that this problem was just, they resolved to assume to themselves the right of inflicting punishment.

These self-created judges and executioners, having agreed upon their right, now proceeded to the conducting of the several parts of the plot, and the merry comedian ascended to the chamber door, dragging the jack chain with other noisy instruments after him, and uttering the most barbarous sounds his invention could frame.

The peaceable devotees to corporal purity, having no temporal cares to take up their attention, had, as is usually the case with such persons, plunged themselves into the extreme of superstition, and firmly believed that the souls of the deceased were allowed to resort to the mansions where their bodies resided when alive; firm in this preposterous opinion, and totally void of any
suspicion

suspicion that it was concerted, they clung to each other trembling, sweating and praying as if immediate dissolution were to follow.

To add to their affright, the maid who knew them well, had retired to her own chamber, where she uttered the most lamentable moans and confirmed their notion that the house was haunted.

Early the next morning, the crafty sinner entered her mistress's chamber, and asked them, if they had heard any noise? an answer was made in the affirmative, and she, hoping to secure her own pleasure, declared that she heard something open her room door, when casting her eyes that way, a great bull dog came in with fire bursting from his mouth, but that immediately he became a great big man covered all over with blue flames, and that she thought the house would be burned; that then she covered her head with the cloaths, when she received several blows on different parts of her body, and such severe pinches that she could not help crying out; and that indeed, she was afraid she had disturbed them; and that in about half an hour finding every thing quiet, she fell asleep.

With this additional testimony, the two virgins thought themselves authorized, not only to spread the report, but also to inform the landlord, that they could inhabit the house no longer. The landlord, who saw that the propagation of such a story must prove detrimental to his interests, and being from nature or habit less inclined to credulity of that kind, put on a determined resolution of finding a more satisfactory solution of the problem, than that which the old ladies had given.

He suspected that the maid, however seemingly innocent, must be privy to the contrivance; and therefore prevailed upon the immaculates to admit him into their dwelling on the ensuing night without her knowledge.

Every thing was carried on with profound secrecy, and he planted himself at the top of the garret stairs with a loaded gun:—By and by the facetious lover arrives, and having spent some time in amorous dalliance, and no less pleasing refreshment, willing to continue the farce he seized a peaceable cat, that lay purring in the chimney corner, and shoeing him with walnut shells well fastened to his paws, and a couple of brazen candlesticks to his tail, he carries him to the middle of the garret stairs, where he let him shift for himself; unused to such a mode of travelling, the cat himself was so much alarmed, that he ran away, whilst the noise of his feet and of the candlesticks increased his terror, and his pace.

The enraged landlord now bellowed out, "I have found you!" and at the same instant discharged his piece, which fortunately missed its intended mark, whilst the terrified self-created ghost, thinking that all hell was at his heels, to revenge his imposition, rushed down the stairs and would wait neither to ascertain whether he was wounded or not, nor even to take a friendly leave of his affectionate mistress, who was also terrified at the report of the gun.

In his precipitation to escape the immediate danger, he jumped over the partition-wall, and unluckily fell into a deep stand of water, which served as a reservoir to the house he lived in; but the rotten timber that supported it giving way, he was vomitted from it like *Jonas* from the whale's

whale's belly, and in a piteous plight, regained his room, from which he solemnly avowed to make no more amorous expeditions by night, whilst in Bewdley.

We would willingly indulge our readers with the sequel of this adventure, but as our hero is no farther concerned in it, we dread the too great severity of *modern critics*, who would not pardon such digressions.

EDWIN's half benefit, though more prolific than any of the others, produced so small a sum that he resolved to seek adventures somewhere else; he was unwilling to become a burden to his parent; yet, in the uncertainty of employment, and from the levity of his purse he thought London the best place for him to watch an opportunity; he entered reluctantly into a waggon returning to London; impatient of solitude had the good fortune, as he called it, of meeting there, two Irish shoemakers and a red haired wench of Lancashire, going to town to get a service.

Having reconnoitred his fellow travellers, he resolved to amuse himself as well as he could, and entered into the following dialogue with the Hibernians.

He affected the native dialect, which he saw his fellow-travellers were adepts in,

" Yearou, by my soul! I believe you are my own dear countrymen."

Be G—d and that we are.—Arrah, where was you born my jewel?

" In the *sweet City* of Waterford, a Chusla;—my father kept the sign of the Three Roasted Potaties, and the Bokin of Butter-milk; Ora, my jewel, 'tis there you could get the real Stingo;

none of your hogwash, the devil a head-ach you would find in whole hoghead of it.

Arrah, my jewel, I wish we had a sneezer of it now;—I know for my own part I would rather have it than your d—nd gin, that gives a body the gripes in his stomach, and scalds one's throat like a roasted pig.

“ Arrah, by my soul, you may that without an epivication;—but here in England, nothing will go down with them but it; there was a brave honest fellow, one of our own kidney here about a year ago, that wrote a song upon it;—by my soul I think it was a good thing.

That's a good boy, do sing it for us a hagar;
“ Faith and that I will, with all my heart.”

THE SONG.

Let Physicians their potions and flops recommend,

Let the ladies insist in the virtues of tea;

The two springs of Parnassus let poets befriend,

And the Clergy still preach to live temperately;

Let the rich and the great, sing the praises of
wine,

All their nonsense I care for no more than a pin,

I will make it as plain as that Phœbus doth shine,

That all liquors on earth are inferior to gin.

Oh! botheration to me but he his a lyar!—'tis
no more to whiskey, than ditch-water is to *Thady*
Slaughnessy's home made ale;

But who the devil is that same Phœbus that
he talks of?

Arrah, you fool! that is the same thing as a
candle that shews light in the day-time;—but you
are no Scollard. *Roger.*

No,

No, Thady, that's true ; but because you was three yars with Mr. *O'Flannigan* in Blarney, you are nothing to brag of for all that.

(Here the Lancashire wench interfered, and reminded the Hibernians that they interrupted the song ;—they then requested EDWIN to continue ;)

See what vapours, what qualms, what vertigoes
and pains,

Drive our drinkers of fops down to Tunbridge
and Bath ;

And the wretch who for want of expences re-
mains,

Is as pale as a clout and as thin as a lath ;

But if chance or kind Providence, health should
confer,

You can quickly perceive discontent in their
grin ;

And the languid contorsion of features and air,
That appears in them, proves them no lovers
of gin.

Devil burn me, if myself understands a word ;
—it is all gibbridge to me.

An ass's head will hold nothing but brains, you
know, Roger.

Ha ! ha ! ha ! by my soul that's a good one ;
what the devil else would you have it hold ?—but
go on, countryman.

Now the picture revers'd, let us fly to that spot,
That is call'd in the records of fame, Billins-
gate,

What complexions, what limbs, without ble-
mish or fault,

And their language I'm sure, is emphatic and
great,

No_t

Not the puny productions, the long winded
tales,

By which Printers and Booksellers large es-
tates win;

But the genuine effusions that nature exhales,
From the frequent imbibing of generous gin:

(The frequent imbibing of generous gin,—that's
pretty, imbibing from *Bibo, bibis, bippi vel, boppi*;
—I have it all by heart)

(Arrah, hold your tongue, Thady, and don't be
after making a fool of yourself;—can't you let
the jounleman finish his song.)

Now to glorious St. Giles's we'll take a short
trip,

And observe how by gin every bosom is
charm'd;

See the youth, whom Jack Ketch almost had
in the slip,

Like a dog to the vomit return unalarm'd,

And the fair one, who thinks it a scandal to
blush,

As a hog in the mire, plunge yet deeper in
fin,

Whilst her sisters undaunted to fisticuffs rush,

And all prove that true courage, is found but
in gin.

Here EDWIN made a bow to signify that he had
finished;—and immediately the hard hands of the
shoe-makers came against each other with such
violence in token of approbation, that several peo-
ple rushed out of a public-house, before which they
then passed, imagining that the travellers had fallen
out among themselves, and were deciding the con-
troversy by sound blows.

Some

Some stopp'd the horses, whilst others crowd-
ed about the vehicle to enquire into the cause of
the affray, where they were surpriz'd to see loud
cordiality, instead of tumultuous rage;—The wag-
goner, incensed at the delay, which might occasion
his driving his horses faster than usual to perform
the customary task, swore heartily against all the
parties, but was appeased by the presentation of
a pot of beer, and tranquillity being once more re-
stored, he gee-whooped his team, and all went on
quietly.

EDWIN arrived in London; where he shortly
after found himself under more distress than his
sensibility could well bear with, for he would not
intrude upon his father farther than was absolutely
unavoidable.

He entertained some thoughts of quitting the
stage; but after mature deliberation, he thought it
the most likely means of procuring what he aimed
at,—eminence;—esteem he also coveted, and
would have brought to the grave, had not an an-
swer to a letter which he had sent to Mr. *Lee*, at
Bath introduced him to Mrs. *Walmsley*.

The desire of palliating the faults of a deceased
friend, prevents us from giving any particulars
of this affair; too many are already informed of
it;—we will therefore cast a veil over this one,
I could almost say only, blot on our friend's escut-
cheon, and say, that having sincerely repented of
his ingratitude to that lady, we hope that heaven
and she have forgiven it.

Nothing material happened to him at Bath, ex-
cept that his exertions to perfect himself in the
duties of his station, were attended with such suc-
cess, that his name was re-echoed throughout the
kingdom

kingdom, and suggested to the late judicious and critical Mr. *Foot*e, the desire of possessing so great a treasure.

In Bath it is well known, that persons of the most exquisite taste in, and nice knowledge of propriety in every line of life frequent its theatre; had not EDWIN possessed real merit, he would not have met with applause there,—and those who can in that city establish their reputation as actors, have passed the ordeal, and may boldly appear before a London audience.

At Bath he had learned to renounce that preposterous attachment which he had conceived for representing old and serious characters, and had applied himself with unwearied diligence to the study of that line, to which he now saw himself peculiarly adapted.

In one of his excursions near the city of Bath, he met with a wooden limbed soldier, who told him his tale of distress in an artless manner;

“How can you dare to beg?”

I have a licence, an please your honour.

“Lice you may have, but sence I deny your having, to beg of an actor, but here, take this;—you want it, and I can spare it.”

Notwithstanding the many testimonies of excellence he had received in Bath by the approbation of the most scrutinizing of both sexes, he could not make his first appearance before the Londoners without a considerable degree of timidity, but escaping the tremendous letters though neither bravoed nor encored, he pluck'd up courage and soon brought the current of popular applause to run in his favour.

Your fame is like the Tower of Babel, says *Foot*e to him, but will not meet its fate,—your fame will reach the skies.

“And

" And you, Sir, replies EDWIN, are like Cognac brandy."

Like brandy, cries the manager, how, EDWIN, how?

" Because, whilst you bite, you heal."

The British Aristophanes was greedy of praise, and so highly tickled by this adulation, that he always held our comedian in high estimation.

Being one night in company with *Foot*e, where there were several others, one gentleman retired before the bill was paid;—some of the rest were talking at the same time of *Foot*e's uncommon abilities at taking people off;

" I know one that is cleverer than he, says EDWIN, at taking off."

That is impossible, cried every one together, nor was Aristophanes free from mortification at finding himself thus diminished by his friend:

" Nothing more certain however, says EDWIN, for Mr. *Foot*e only takes others off, and Mr. N—has taken himself off, and without paying his reckoning."

At a tavern one day, the waiter whispered *Foot*e and EDWIN, that there was an Hermaphrodite, speaking of one that came in.—

What should be done with that *thing*? says *Foot*e.

" Send him to Middle-sex, by all means, replies EDWIN."

Why so?

" Because he is of neither."

His good humour, good nature and ready wit, procured him admittance into the best companies, and there is a very great probability, that his circumstances would in the end have been very comfortable, had his life been spared a little longer: but as if heaven had disapproved of his forsaking the
the

the person, who had for so many years been as a wife to him, and shall we presume to offer an opinion, was more justly and essentially so registered in Heaven, than she whom the law entitled to assume his name; — Providence then in resentment for this last and worst action of his whole life, punished him by an untimely end.

Had he not had to reproach himself with his conduct in this particular, I know few men who could behave better in so awful a moment than EDWIN; — he saw his dissolution approach with a diffident fortitude, which proved that he neither presumed upon his own merit for forgiveness of his crimes, nor despaired of mercy from their heinousness; — in modest confidence after having done all that human nature could do to prolong his date, he expired on the 31st of October, 1790, aged Forty-one Years, Two Months and Twenty-one Days.

On the 7th of November, his remains were conveyed in solemn pomp through an amazing concourse of spectators, (every one of whom shewed a sincere regret for the death of so eminent, and amiable a person) to the Church yard of St. Paul's; Covent-Garden, where they were deposited; and over his grave is placed a handsome stone, engraved with the following words:

Here Lies

JOHN EDWIN,

COMEDIAN,

Late of Covent-Garden Theatre;

Who departed this Life October 31, 1790.

Aged 42 Years.

F I N I S.



